

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-09 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

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TO SECCSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8946

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EFIN, JA, OECD

SUBJECT: JAPANESE VIEWS ON LANGAUGE ISSUE; FINANCIAL SUPPORT FUND

REF: OECD PARIS 7597

PASS TREASURY FOR BENNETT AND COOPER

1. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON SUBJECT (PER REFTEL) BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF MOF, FUJIOKA, NOT YET AWARE THAT GERMANY AGAIN REJECTED DUTCH COMPROMISE PROPOSAL. HE WAS GRATEFUL UN RECEIVING NEWS OF LATEST IMPAASE BUT SAID THIS MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE GATHERING OF FIN MMINISTERS APRIL 9.

2. DURING EARLY WORKING PART DISCUSSIONS OF LANGAUGE ISSUE FUJIOKA HAD PRESSED FOR MAINTAINING OECD TRADITION OF ONLY ENGLISH AND FRENCH AS OFFICIAL AND AUTHENTIC LANGAUGES. IF GERMAN WAS ADOPTED AS THIRD LANGAUGE (AS IN IEA) IT MIGHT TAKE TWO YEARS BEFORE TRANLATIONS WERE COMPLETED AND THE TEMPORARY FUND WOULD HAVE TERMINATED BY THAT TIME SO FUJIOKA SAW NO SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR GOJ. BUT IF OTHER LANGUAGES (USED BY NO MORE THAN A SINGEL MEMBER) WERE ALSO
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AGREED UPON, GOJ WOLD HAVE TO INSIST UPON JAPANESE FOR

POLITICAL REASOONS SAID FUJIOKA. HE HAD HOPED THE DUTCH COMPROMISE WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCEPTABLE TO GERMANY BUT HE NOW REALIZED IT IS NOT.

3. WHEN ASKED IF HE HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS ON COURSE OF ACTION IN RESOLVING LANAGAUGE ISSUE FUJIOKA IMMEDIATELY REPLIED THAT BENNETT WHO WAS VERY CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH POEHL SHOULD PRESS GERMANY TO DROP ITS DEMANDS. OTHERWISE, THE ITALINANS WOULD PRESS THEIR CAUSE. FURTHERMORE, THIS WAS PURELY A EUROPEAN ISSUE BUT THE OECD ENCOMPASSED IMPORTANT COUNTRIES IN OTHER AREAS (AMERICAS, ASIA, OCEANIC), AND BENNETT SHOULD STRESS THIS POINT.

4. FINATT ASKED WHETHER FUJIOKA THOUGHT A MULTILATERAL APPROACH WOULD BE USEFUL IN SEEKING A RESOOUTION. HE SEEMED QUITE RECEPTIVE TO JOINING IN A MULTILATERAL APPROACH, BUT HE SAW NO NON EUROPEAN COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE U.S. ORGANIZING IT. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT SINCE JAPAN HAD ALREADY TAKEN A STRONG POSITION IN THE EARLER DISCUSSIONS, HE DID NOT WANT JAPAN TAKING THE INITIATIVE ON THIS ISSUE.

5. FUJIOKA REQUESTED TO BE KEPT INFORMED ON ANY U.S INITIATIVES HAD IN TURN AGREED TO INFORM THE U.S OF ANY IDEAS GOJ MAY DEVELOP ON RESOLVING THE LANGAUGE ISSUE.

6. COMMENT: AS IS USUAL, GOJ PLAYING PASSIVE OBSERVER ROLE AND HAS GIVEN NO THOUGHT TO WAHT NEW APPROACHES MAY RESOLVE INTERNATIONAL IMPASSE. FINATT BELEIVES MOF REALIZES THAT PERHAPS IT SHOULD TAKE A MORE ACTIVE INTEREST IN FINALIZING THIS AGREEMENT, TO WHICH IT WAS INITIALLY A VERY RELUCTANT PARTICIPANT BUT NOW SEEMS FULLY COMMITTED TO FINAL ADOPTION.
SHOESMITH

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